

REMARKS

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-3 and 5-29 will be pending in the present application. Claims 8 and 17 have been amended.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 8, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Reber (U.S. Patent 5,113,356). The Examiner objected to claims 9-12, 14 and 15 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. In response, the Applicants hereby submit the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, and respectfully submit that the remaining pending claims are in condition for allowance.

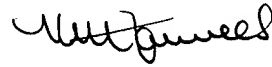
Amended Claim 8 recites in part the step of "flowing a liquid electrolytic fluid through said first and second gaps". Reber does not disclose the use of a liquid electrolytic fluid, and therefore Reber does not anticipate the Claim 8. As such, the Applicants hereby submit that Claim 8 is in condition for allowance. Claims 9-16 depend upon Claim 8, and the Applicants therefore request their allowance as well.

Claim 17 has been amended such that it now recites in part "an acoustic couplant between said first ultrasonic transducer and said first tool... wherein the acoustic couplant is selected from the group consisting of: a gel, a high viscosity oil, a low viscosity oil, or an aqueous couplant." Reber does not disclose an acoustic couplant such as those described above, and therefore Reber does not anticipate the amended Claim 17. As such, the Applicants hereby submit that amended Claim 17 is in condition for allowance. New claims 22 through 29 have been added to individually recite the types of acoustic couplants described above. The remaining Claims 18 through 29 depend, directly or indirectly, upon Claim 17. Accordingly, the Applicants therefore request their allowance as well.

Summary

Given the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants hereby request consideration of the subject patent application. Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to Deposit Account No. 500282.

Respectfully submitted,



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